



PARKS & RECREATION AND HARBOR COMMISSION
June 6, 2017
645 Pine Street, Front Conference Room
5:30PM

Commission Present: Bossange, Kaplan, Hurley, Pierce, Hale, Healy and Montroll

Staff Present: Safavi and Putzier

The meeting was convened at 5:37 p.m. by Commission Chair Kaplan.

Approval of Agenda

A Motion was made to approve the agenda by Bossange, second by Healy, motion carried.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Bossange read aloud with the motion included, motion was made to approve the consent agenda by Pierce, second by Hurley, motion carried.

BPRW Data Innovation Preview Presentation

Safavi explained the department is mapping all parks and amenities, playgrounds, benches and trees. A few interns are working on, one is a prior UVM student that created GIS plan, will be posted on line with visuals, will help with planning efforts, can do further impact analysis, data, census and floodplain. Some areas could be doing better, could look more into demographics. The information can help to tell the story of what BPRW is doing. Ties into grant received and will map all active projects and call it a story map, will be publicly available. Before and after photographs, doing project for the first time with many infrastructure projects coming up.

Bossange wanted to know how the information would be shared with the public and was told by Safavi it would be imbedded in the website where appropriate and can share data with partners, such as conservation group with trails and trail types, will have system wide. Reached out to Winooski and Colchester to see what they have and were finding gaps will be filling in.

Hale asked if trail accessibility would be included and Safavi said she would make sure they were included.

Healy asked what other attributes, Safavi said playgrounds and when last inspection was done, upcoming projects, trees are already mapped but working with software company to get on line as well, bench inventory, lighting infrastructure model and efficiency, basically anything that is in the parks, all buildings, fountains, trash bins, courts and playing fields. Will look ahead as to what is needed in neighborhoods. Also asked about events and told that would happen later in the future.

Kaplan volunteered the Commission to be included in the process and encouraged to use them as an example or test group when putting out the information.

Public Forum (Time Certain 6:00PM, 3 min. per person time limit)

Public forum opened at 6:00 p.m. by Commission Chair Kaplan.

Seeing nobody from the public the forum was closed at 6:00 p.m.

Summer/Fall Events Update

A list of events was reviewed explaining all upcoming events that would be presented by BPRW and other organizations, some discussion occurred regarding specifics on vendors and the type of events. This was a follow-



up that was requested by Commissioner's that wanted an update on internal and external events that would be happening during the summer/fall to keep Commission informed.

BPRW Capital Budget

Safavi stated the budget went to the City Council and was approved. Looking at the ecology and use, almost done and will share with the group. Relocating some of the paths to help deal with the erosion. Did a survey to understand the topography and would reconfigure to go more horizontally and more vegetation. Considering extending the camping season with cabins and lean-tos, the bike path budget was approved yesterday and will have a kickoff with contractors tomorrow. North of North Beach underpass all the way to Colchester, working with Local Motion to figure out the ferry service, have a web site up and running about phase two with updates, could start next week and will use Leddy for the staging area.

Montroll asked how long the bike path would be closed and was told the project would go through December and would be done in phases.

Bossange stated that Local Motion would like to be notified when closures would happen and were the route would be and encouraged good communication and offered to help get the word out.

Safavi said have started outreach, doing signage and listing with marketing person, have not listed the re-route as of yet as not sure what the route will be yet. Post cards have been sent to everyone that abuts the bike path.

Safavi stated working on scoping study at 311 North Avenue property and where the trails will be located. Working on archeological study currently, doing vegetation study and looking at different ways to cross the ravine.

Working closely with Cambrian Rise to make sure the properties work well together. Cahill just planted more trees at the property, approximately 700 trees over past few months.

Two bids out for court improvements at Appletree and Roosevelt parks, not received back yet, asked if the neighborhood knows about the improvements.

Director's Items

Safavi stated most of the no smoking signs for the parks have been posted and some are still being worked on.

Bossange wanted to have all signs up as soon as possible and lots of them, in several places, he felt two per park is not enough and on trash containers is not enough in his opinion.

Hurley said temporary banners are good, does not want to over sign, Bossange agreed with the larger banners being temporary.

Kaplan suggested checking with the tobacco coalition and what they can offer to help as well.

Hurley felt it is a little obnoxious to over sign and would like to enjoy the experience of the park.

Safavi stated that it is embedded in all other rules and regulations within the park system as well.

Commissioner's Items

Bossange, working on acquisitions of land, trails, looking on a capital campaign for a 5th phase place off the bike path, looking to conserve and preserve but make it public, Cahill, and his Field Naturalist have been helping with this campaign.

Hurley was sad to see the first Beach Bites event cancelled due to the weather and is looking forward to going to the next one as well as the Cinema Series.



Kaplan thanked Hanson for serving on the commission, appreciative of her service and the changes she has made since serving.

Kaplan stated there is no July Commission meeting and will reconvene in August with a full Commission. Safavi stated she would not be at the August Commission meeting.

Kaplan also stated that she is on the hiring committee for BPRW Director and interviews will start in the next week. Mayor will be very meticulous in the search process. Putzier added that the Mayor had talked to staff last Thursday and again this Thursday to get input and on what the department would like to see in the next Director.

Kaplan added that she would be happy to speak with any staff regarding concerns or suggestions around the hiring of the Director if they feel more comfortable speaking with someone other than the Mayor. Other Commissioners said they would be available as well.

Safavi added that it would be good to keep Brian Lowe in the loop of all communications for continuity and to make sure everyone is getting the same information.

Adjournment

Motion was made to adjourn at 6:29 p.m. by Healy, second by Hale, motion carried.